

Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup
December 7, 2005 Meeting Summary

Location: Sacramento City Unified School District

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization/Title
1. Liz Touhey	DHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
2. Barbara Schultz	DHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
3. Bruce Clark	DHS, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch
4. John DiCecco	Los Angeles Unified School District (USD)
5. Pam Wagner	Los Angeles USD
6. Laura Baynham	Mendocino County Office of Education (COE)
7. Cathy Bennett	Sacramento City USD
8. Susan Bier	Konocti USD
9. Sue Hamblin	Stanislaus COE
10. Judy Holzapfel	Glenn COE
11. Barbara Miller	Fresno USD
12. Robert Powell	California Speech-Language-Hearing Association
13. Judy Dorn	Fresno COE
14. Anysia Drumheller	Butte COE
15. Linda Davis-Alldritt	California Department of Education
16. Jennifer Lujan	CASP
17. Margie Bobe	Los Angeles USD
18. Susan Ellyson	Madera COE
19. Kevin Harris	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
20. Marna Hammer	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
21. Gloria Eng	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
22. Marlana Evans	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
23. Kirsten Martens	Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Handouts

Each participant received a folder with copies of the following: Agenda, Status Reports for the months of October and November, DHS responses to Workgroup comments on the provider manual individual services sections, October 5th Meeting Summary, and Navigant Consulting's PowerPoint presentation.

Purpose

The meeting was convened by DHS in partnership with LAUSD. The purpose of the Workgroup is to improve the LEA Program. The emphasis of the meeting is to strategize various goals and activities aimed at enhancing Medi-Cal services provided on school sites and access by students to these services, while increasing federal reimbursement to LEAs for the cost of providing these services.

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Speech-Language Equivalency State Plan Amendment (SPA) 05-010

DHS has submitted a letter requesting affirmation of practitioner equivalency regarding speech-language pathologists with clinical or rehabilitative services credentials from the State Attorney General. This letter is currently at the California Department of Health and Human Services. Upon receiving appropriate review and signatures, the letter will be sent to the Governor's office, and then to the Attorney General's Office. DHS must respond to CMS' Request for Additional Information or take the SPA off the 90-day clock, which ends January 2, 2006.

Action:

What: Prepare a letter to CMS requesting the SPA 05-010 be taken off the clock until the equivalency letter is approved by the State Attorney General.

Who: DHS

When: Before January 2, 2006

Regulations Package

Navigant Consulting, Inc. has started working on a regulations package. The proposed changes to current regulations will reflect the changes to the LEA Program as a result of SPA 03-024.

Action:

What: Prepare a comparison between federal and State regulations for February Workgroup meeting. In addition, prepare a summary of DHS's proposed regulations language for discussion with Workgroup, including applicable references and authority citations.

Who: DHS and Navigant Consulting, Inc

When: Before the February 2006 Workgroup meeting

Third Party Liability (TPL)

Navigant Consulting, Inc. has started working on drafting the TPL survey for 2006, based on the new HIPAA-compliant national codes. The Workgroup has suggested that DHS prepare a TPL waiver request to CMS for IDEA students only. The TPL survey will need to be administered for non-IDEA students regardless of the TPL waiver outcome.

Action:

What: Prepare a letter on behalf of the Workgroup regarding administrative burden for schools in collecting and following up on TPL information.

Who: John DiCecco

When: ASAP

Action:

What: Prepare a TPL waiver request for IDEA students.

Who: DHS

When: ASAP

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Future State Plan Amendments (SPAs)

DHS requested feedback from the Workgroup regarding the preparation of future SPAs. The Workgroup provided information regarding the issues that were high priority to LEA providers for future SPAs. High priorities included: personal care services; dietician services; update physician rates; licensed physical, occupational, and speech therapy assistants; and behavioral intervention services. A new rate study may need to be conducted in order to obtain reimbursement rates for some new services.

Action:

What: Research and summarize regulations and existing California fee schedule codes and rates for new services.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: Before the February 2006 Workgroup meeting

Action:

What: Determine policy regarding multiple SPAs submitted to CMS at the same time, with regard to modifying existing State Plan language for the same benefits.

Who: DHS

When: ASAP

Provider Manual Revisions

Navigant Consulting, Inc. summarized changes to the LEA portion of the Medi-Cal provider manual. Revisions were based on Workgroup feedback on the ten individual services sections. Changes included: clarifying services claimable by qualified rendering practitioners in all of the individual services sections; clarifying credentialing requirements and qualified supervising practitioner(s) language under the supervision requirements sections; and adding language in loc edu regarding the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

The Workgroup proposed additional changes to the Audiology service section to ensure that the language in the provider manual is consistent with terminology used in the schools. In addition, the Transportation service section was reviewed in depth in response to Workgroup questions.

Action:

What: Send existing transportation regulations regarding wheelchair van requirements to Laura Baynham.

Who: DHS

When: Completed December 2005

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Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) Update

Navigant Consulting and DHS have been working with CMS to resolve outstanding issues regarding the CRCS forms and instructions. To date, updates to the forms have included: LEA certification of total personnel costs; removal of TCM claims from the reimbursement calculated by the State; and removal of the Program Specialist line in the worksheets. To date, changes to the instructions have included: clarification regarding FTEs and partial federal funding; clarification regarding the final settlement process; clarification regarding billing consortiums; and additional language in the certification statement regarding accounting standards. Pending final CMS approval, the instructions and forms will be sent to DHS Forms Management Unit.

Action:

What: Submit CRCS instructions and forms to DHS Forms Management Unit

Who: DHS

When: After CMS approval

CRCS Training

The first CRCS training was held Monday, November 7, 2005 at the Los Angeles County Office of Education in Downey, California. The CRCS PowerPoint slide presentation is being revised for future training sessions, based on questions and feedback received from participants. Resource materials from the training are available on the LEA website for reference. Additional CRCS trainings will be scheduled for Fresno and Sacramento during the first quarter of 2006. DHS and Navigant Consulting, Inc. are preparing FAQs from the CRCS training to be posted on the LEA website.

Future SPA Implementation Trainings

Implementation training is tentatively planned for Spring 2006. Further information will be available next year.

Action:

What: Research whether training notification flyers and information can be included in the monthly revenue report.

Who: DHS

When: ASAP

Action:

What: Research upcoming association conferences as a vehicle for disseminating information about the LEA Program and upcoming training.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc. and Workgroup

When: First quarter of 2006

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Action:

What: Research training venue locations.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: First quarter of 2006

LEA Experience with Audits and Investigations

DHS reviewed the billing requirements for Health Education/Anticipatory Guidance in response to a State audit of a school district in Northern California. This school district improperly billed Medi-Cal for a mailing sent out to parents, which the LEA billed as Health Education/Anticipatory Guidance. DHS clarified that Health Education/Anticipatory Guidance involves a face-to-face encounter between a qualified practitioner and a student designed to improve a student's health by changing his/her behavior. DHS wanted to make this policy clear to the Workgroup, and make the Workgroup aware that improper billing is under review by Audits and investigations.

Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) personnel described their recent audit experience, which was requested by State authorities and conducted by State audit staff. SCUSD has had little difficulty thus far producing requested documentation to support services rendered in 2002-2003 for specific students. However, representatives did note that LEA practice on records retention may vary from A&I expectations regarding student files when they have moved out of district. Workgroup members asked DHS whether there was any way to educate auditors about the differences between school and clinical settings.

New Workgroup Co-Chair

The Southern California co-chair of the Workgroup, Pam Wagner, is retiring in February 2006. The Workgroup elected a new co-chair, John DiCecco, from LAUSD, effective immediately.

Future Workgroup Meetings

The next Workgroup meeting for DHS and providers will be held in Sacramento on February 1, 2006.